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Report Highlights:

BSE Update; Progress on Pesticide Issues; and Health Ingredients Japan 2005 Show.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Tokyo [JA1]
[JA]



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BSE Update: The FSC Prion Committee continued to discuss the safety of US and Canadian beef at its Oct. 4th meeting. Despite reaching a final conclusion, the subsequent articles in the daily press reported that the FSC had made a preliminary determination that US beef was safe and trade would resume before the end of the year. While this reporting will be helpful in re-establishing confidence in the general public, when the FSC review will be finally concluded is still unclear. Members of the GOJ are encouraging the prion committee to hold its next meeting Oct. 14 even though the chairman will not be available. The next available date would be Oct. 24.

Progress on Pesticide Issues: A team of experts from EPA, FAS, and industry met with MHLW and Food Safety Commission experts this week to address outstanding U.S. concerns about the new positive list for Maximum Residue Limits and also the issue of post harvest fungicide regulation. Progress was made on both issues, but follow up will be required.

Health Ingredients Japan 2005 Show: Benefiting from the continuing health trend in the Japanese food market, exhibitors at the Health Ingredients Japan 2005 Show displayed food ingredients, nutraceuticals, processing/testing equipment, and health foods featuring a wide range of functional attributes to nearly 45,000 visitors. FAS supported the U.S. Pavilion at the show, featuring 7 companies, 5 cooperators, and an ATO information booth. U.S. exhibitors estimated on-site sales and projected 12-month sales resulting from the event at \$3.5 million.

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